

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

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FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - FEB 3

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS HIGHLIGHTS:

--IZVESTIYA REFUTES CHARGES IN THE U.S. MEDIA THAT SOVIET MILITARY MIGHT IS A THREAT TO THE WEST;
--PRAVDA REPORTING ON THE AAPSO MEETING IN LUANDA HAS NETO SPEAKING AS IF MPLA MILITARY ACTION WILL SOON END VICTORIOUSLY; AND IZVESTIYA CALLS ATTEMPTS BY WEST TO CREATE A DETENTE LINK TO ANGOLA "LAUGHABLE" (SEPTTEL);
--AN AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA CONCLUDES THAT CSCE IS WORKING WELL, THOUGH EFFORT MUST BE CONTINUED TO PUSH THE WEST TO FULL IMPLEMENTATION;
--THE PRESS IS PLAYING UP PRESENCE OF WESTERN OBSERVERS AT THE SOVIET MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE CAUCASUS;
--TASS IN PRAVDA SAYS THE U.S. SUPPORT OF THE ISRAELI POSITION ON THE PLO IS BLOCKING CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE;
--AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEPARTURE OF THE CPSU DELEGATION TO THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS IS BALANCED BY PRAISE FOR STATE OF OFFICIAL FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. IZVESTIYA POLITICAL OBSERVER MAYVEYEV SAYS WEST IS CONTINUING TO USE "MYTH OF THE SOVIET THREAT" AS A WEAPON AGAINST THE USSR. HE SAYS SINCE BEGINNING OF LAST YEAR CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN RAGING IN U.S. MEDIA ACCUSING THE USSR OF ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE MILITARY SUPERIORITY, OF SALT VIOLATIONS, AND OF UNNECESSARY NAVAL EXPANSION. MAYVEYEV GIVES STANDARD JUSTIFICATION FOR SOVIET MILITARY POWER, AND POINTS TO SENATOR KENNEDY'S REMARKS ON EXAGGERATED IDEA IN U.S. ON SOVIET DEFENSE SPENDING. HE SAYS FURTHER THAT THE WEST REFUSES TO TAKE SERIOUSLY THE MANY SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS. IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER COVERAGE, SENATOR HUMPHREY'S SPEECH AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY IS REPLAYED IN PRAVDA IN GLOWING TERMS; PRAVDA NOTES THAT THE SENATOR CALLED THE RECENT VISIT BY THE SECRETARY TO MOSCOW AN "ENCOURAGING SIGN OF PROGRESS." KRASNAYA ZVEZDA SAYS THE WEST GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER IS CALLING FOR AN END TO "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY" BY THE MUNICH RADIOS ON GERMAN SOIL; MATVEYEV IN ARTICLE NOTED ABOVE ALSO SAYS CONGRESS BEGINNING TO QUESTION NEED

FOR RADIO FUNDING.

3. CSCE. A SIGNED COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA BY S. DIMITRIYEV (CLEARLY A PSEUDONYM) CONCLUDES THAT AS A WHOLE THE CSCE AGREEMENTS ARE WORKING WELL. THRUST OF THE ARTICLE IS PRAISE FOR FINAL ACT AS "RELIABLE BASIS" FOR GOOD RELATIONS IN EUROPE. ARTICLE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF TEN PRINCIPLES AS THE "LEGAL POLITICAL" BASE FOR DETENTE, AND ASSERTS THAT USSR CONSCIENTIOUSLY IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENTS. HE QUESTIONS WESTERN ACTIONS IN THIS REGARD, CITING NATO CALLS FOR INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING, CONTRARY TO MBFR AIMS; EFFORTS WITHIN NATO TO INCREASE UNITY OF THIS "AGGRESSIVE BLOC;" THE "CAMPAIGN AGAINST DETENTE IN GENERAL" BEING WAGED IN THE WEST, AND EFFORTS BY THE WEST CALLING FOR THE "EVOLUTION OF SOCIALISM" (AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO BASKET 111). COMMENT. THOUGH THE ARTICLE DOES CRITICIZE WESTERN IMPLEMENTATION, IT DOES SO IN MODERATE TERMS AND WITH OBSERVATION THAT SUCH ALLEGED NEGATIVE ACTIONS ARE ALSO ACCOMPANIED BY POSITIVE WESTERN STEPS--ALTHOUGH THE LATTER ARE NOT DESCRIBED ARTICLE SEEMS TO BE WRITTEN TO SHOW THAT FINAL ACT IS INDEED WORKING, EVEN THOUGH DESCRIBING NEED BY "PROGRESSIVE FORCES" TO CONTINUE TO PUSH THE WEST TOWARD FULL IMPLEMENTATION. END COMMENT.

4. CSCE/CBM. CENTRAL PRESS IS PLAYING UP WESTERN OBSERVERS' PRESENCE AT SOVIET MILITARY MANEUVERS IN THE CAUCASUS. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA FRONT PAGES A PICTURE OF GRECHKO MEETING THE OBSERVERS, AND SEPARATE ARTICLES IN PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA POINTEDLY NOTE OBSERVERS' PRESENCE.

5. MIDDLE EAST. PRAVDA CARRIES TASS REPORT FROM NEW YORK QUOTING RABIN THAT HE IS SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECENT U.S. VISIT. TASS ADDS EDITORIAL THAT RESULTS INCLUDED \$2.24 BILLION FOR 1976, PLUS "ASSURANCE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST PARTICIPATION BY THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE --THE PLO--IN THE WORK OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, THAT IS, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES BLOCKING ITS CONVENING." THE REPORT ALSO CALLS THE RECENT U.S. SECURITY COUNCIL VETO "THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF OBSTACLES ON PATH TO JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT."

6. FRANCE. CENTRAL PRESS REPORTS DEPARTURE OF THE CPSU DELEGATION HEADED BY CC SECRETARY KIRILENKO TO THE PCF CONGRESS IN PARIS. PRESS AT SAME TIME IN NUMBER OF ARTICLES STRESSED SOVIET INTEREST IN GOOD OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, AND SIGNED COMMENTARY IN IZVESTIYA

PRAISES THE SOVIET-FRENCH RELATIONSHIP IN UNUSUALLY WARM
TERMS.

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